

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 08119 201349Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00

IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /167 W

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R 201303Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3791

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU, IS, SY

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S REMARKS ON AUSTRIAN/
ISRAELI RELATIONS

1. AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY VOICED STRONG
SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED GOOD AUSTRIAN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL
IN HIS REMARKS SEPTEMBER 18 AT A RECEPTION IN VIENNA FOR
SYRIAN PREMIER MAHMOUD AL-AYOUBI.

2. FONMIN PRESS DIRECTOR MISSONG TOLD EMBOFF AT
LUNCHEON HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR HUMES SEP. 19 THAT
KREISKY'S FORTHRIGHT REMARKS WERE PROMPTED BY RECEIPT
OF ADVANCED TEXT OF AYOUBI'S REMARKS, WHICH MISSONG
CALLED PROPAGANISTIC ATTACK ON ISRAEL INAPPROPRIATE
FOR USE DURING VIIST TO THIRD COUNTRY. AUSTRIAN PRESS
AGENCY DIRECTOR HERR SCHONHERR INTERJECTED THAT
ADVANCED GERMAN TEXT WAS ALREADY ON WIRES WHEN SYRIANS
FRANTICALLY RETRACTED IT. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 08119 201349Z

AYOUBI'S REMARKS, IN ARABIC, NEVERTHELESS DID NOT VARY

SUBSTANTIALLY FROM ADVANCED TEXT, THRUST OF WHICH WAS THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO GIVE BACK ALL OCCUPIED AREAS AND ABIDE BY UN RESOLUTIONS.

3. AS REPORTED BY PRESS, KREISKY TOLD AYOUBI THAT "MUCH AS WE DESIRE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, I CANNOT LET THIS OCCASION PASS WITHOUT STRESSING THAT GOOD RELATIONS CANNOT BE HAD AT THE COST OF OTHER COUNTRIES. AUSTRIA HAS EQUALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE STATES OF THE ARAB WORLD AND ISRAEL, AND THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THIS. I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION ONLY A FEW; THOUSANDS OF AUSTRIAN-BORN PEOPLE HAVE FOUND A NEW HOME IN ISRAEL; HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS COULD SAVE THEMSELVES FROM PERSECUTION BY FLEEING TO THAT COUNTRY; AND ISRAEL IS A MODERN STATE THE NON-RECOGNITION OF WHICH WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH OUR CIVILIZATION."

4. EARLIER IN DAY, KREISKY HAD CHARACTERIZED HIS TALKS WITH AYOUBI AS "VERY FRANK" AND SAID HE HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO AYOUBI THAT THE HIGHER PRICES OF OIL WERE HAMPERING AUSTRIA'S DEVELOPMENT AID EFFORTS.

5. AYOUBI ARRIVED IN VIENNA SEP. 18 FOR A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT DURING WHICH AS AUSTRIAN/SYRIAN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WAS SIGNED.

6. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SOURCES IN TRADE MINISTRY AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT ECONOMIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS A FAIRLY ROUTINE AGREEMENT OF THE KIND AUSTRIANS LIKE TO HAVE SIGNED ON SUCH OCCASIONS. REPORTEDLY IT IS MORE SYMBOLIC THAN CONCRETE, PLEDGING BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO FOSTER CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES AND TO FACILITATE CONTACTS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN COMPANIES IN THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. PRESS REPORTS THAT SYRIANS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN EXPANDING EXPORTS OF TOBACCO, COTTON, CRUDE OIL AND PHOSPHATES TO AUSTRIA.

7. VISIT CAN BE SEEN AS PART OF AUSTRIA'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO CULTIVATE CLOSER TIES WITH NEAR EASTERN STATES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 08119 201349Z

VISIT OF SYRIANS HERE FOLLOWS SIMILAR CONTACTS WITH IRAQ AND IRAN IN PAST YEAR AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY VISIT BY AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY TO IRAN NOT YET OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED BUT EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE THIS FALL. HUMES

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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